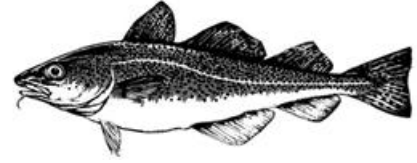


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Contact:  
Nicholas Sagalkin  
Groundfish Area Management Biologist

Westward Region  
211 Mission Road  
Kodiak Alaska, 99615

Phone: (907) 486-1840  
Fax: (907) 486-1824

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**2012 KODIAK AREA STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD  
POT GEAR SEASON OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT  
EMERGENCY ORDER 4-GF-02-12**

National Marine Fisheries Service has announced closure of the Central Gulf of Alaska A-season pot gear sector effective at NOON on February 10, 2012. Therefore, the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear season will open at NOON on February 17, 2012. The 2012 pot gear allocation is 7.845 million pounds. Vessels longer than 58 feet overall length are capped at 3.92 million pounds (25% of the total guideline harvest level).

Vessel operators are required to obtain an interim-use permit card for miscellaneous finfish from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Vessel operators also need an exclusive state-waters vessel registration from ADF&G before participating. A 60-pot limit is in effect for the state-waters season.

For vessels participating in the parallel Pacific cod fishery, all pot gear in state waters must be unbaited with doors secured open at the time of the federal closure. Pots may be stored with doors tied open and bait and bait containers removed, at any depth until the opening of the state-waters fishery.

When the state-waters fishery opens, only 60 pots with buoy tags attached may be fished. Untagged pots may be stored in waters shallower than 25 fathoms or be onboard the vessel for up to 7 days after the state-waters season opening. After seven days, only 60 tagged pots may be in the water or onboard vessels participating in the state-waters fishery.

The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear season will not open at this time because the federal jig gear sector remains open. For more information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.